

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims Status

Claims 28 through 32, 36 through 39, 41 through 45, 47, and 48 remain pending in the application. Claims 28, 30, 31, 37 through 39, 41 through 44, and 47 have been amended to even more succinctly define the invention and/or to improve their form. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. Claims 28 and 42 are the only independent claims pending in the application.

Section 112 Rejection

Claims 28 through 32, 36 through 39, 41 through 45, and 47 through 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth in the Official Action.

Response to Rejection

In response, Claims 28, 30, 31, 37 through 39, 41 through 44, and 47 have been amended *inter alia* to address the grounds of the rejection. In the present invention, a transfer bias, which is provided to transfer the toner patch image onto a transfer medium, is changeable in accordance with a density used for forming a toner patch image on an image bearing member. The Examiner's attention is directed to page 16, lines 5 through 22 of the specification for a discussion of this aspect of the invention. It is respectfully submitted that the amended claims are in full compliance with the statute and that the rejection has been overcome.

Dependent Claims

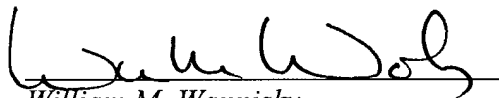
Claims 29 through 32, 36 through 39, 41, 43 through 45, 47, and 48 depend either directly or indirectly from one of Claims 28 and 42 and are allowable by virtue of their dependency and in their own right for further defining Applicants' invention. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Closing Comments

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,



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